19 in Nazi Agent Trial Forego Toast to Hitler

Der Feuhrer's Birthday Goes Unheeded In Newark Court

PM 4/21/44

Testimony at their trial in Newark has shown that on other Apr. 20s, the 19 German-American Vocational League (DAB) defendants celebrated Adolf Hitler's birthday. Yesterday, they attended no balls, and drank no toasts. They were too busy sitting through the 13th day of their trial on charges of conspiring to serve as Nazi propagandists without registering with the State and Justice Depts.

As their little publicized trial drags on, Fritz Schroeder, DAB national Leader, continues taking copious notes. Karl T. Marx, Joseph Lieblein and the rest just sit quietly with their arms folded. Once in a while one of them jumps up to whisper something to his counsel.

Different Attitude

The attitude of the 10 defense lawyers seems quite different from what it was three weeks ago. When the trial began, they made wisecracks in the corridors about how it wouldn't last, and how silly the whole affair was.

Several of them talked of how they didn't know what the war was all about, and termed travel with German Youth Groups "broadening."

Now, though they still try to discredit Government witnesses, by questioning them about their age, education, or amount of liquor they can hold, they have calmed down, and are treating the trial more seriously.

Federal Judge Thomas Meaney has ruled that the Government has presented enough evidence to indicate a conspiracy, thereby making it strongly probable that the case will go to the jury.

Government's Evidence

The Government's case will probably be completed by the end of next week. Thus far, the Government's evidence has been of three types. It has attempted to:

¶ Show a close relationship between the DAB and its members, and National Socialist Germany.

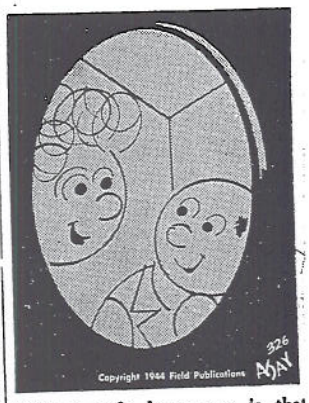
¶ Show that the Nazi Party constantly propagandized in North America, and that the DAB was one of the principal outlets for this propaganda.

¶ Tie the individual defendants, from chapters all over the country, in with the central DAB and its activities.

The testimony of the last two days of George Richards, a former special agent of the FBI, falls into the second category. He testified that he had written a book entitled *America's Ju-Deal* to obtain membership in German organizations, among them the German-American Vocational League.

Richards told the court that Pvt. Joseph Lieblein once said to him the object of the DAB was "to bring the ideals of National Socialism to the United States." At organization meetings, he said, three defendants, Fritz Schroeder, Herman Warth and Albert Kiesler, had declared that "Germans would do everything they could to keep the country out of war."

THE SCUTTLES By Ajay



"Hitler's only hope now is that those Russian victory salvos may exhaust their ammunition."

Hillburn Hints School Truce

The Rev. Edward Robinson, pastor of the Presbyterian Brook Chapel, Negro church at Hillburn, N. Y., has been unanimously elected Moderator of the Hudson Presbytery, at a meeting held in Jeffersonville, N. Y.

The Hudson Presbytery includes ministers from 44 churches in Rockland, Orange and Sullivan counties. The Rev. Robert Jones, pastor of the Hillburn Presbyterian Church and headmaster of the Jim-Crow Main School at Hillburn, the last community in the State to lend support to such a school, nominated Robinson.

Observers see a possible move of appeasement by Hillburn community leaders, because of the forthcoming election on May 2 of a president of the local Hillburn School Board.

Controversy

J. Edgar Davidson, president of the school board and also superintendent of the Ramapo Ajax Division of the American Brake Shoe Co., in Hillburn, was the center of a controversy last October, when he refused admittance to 46 Negro children, whose parents attempted to register them in the Main School.

Davidson told them to report to the Brook Chapel School, the school in Hillburn used exclusively for Negro children, because their homes were in that geographical area. The Brook Chapel School was not accredited by the Board of Regents.

Subsequently, the State Education Commissioner abolished the Brook School with the observation that the Main School had adequate facilities for all children of the district.

White Kids Left

But, when the Negro children moved into the school, the white children moved out en masse under instructions from their parents, and entered private schools.

Davidson told the white parents, who met shortly after this move to discuss how the Commissioner's ruling could be side-stepped:

"I am proud of the way you people are sticking together."